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The President's Daily Brief

May 3, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

May 3, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Israelis resumed combat missions over the Syrian front yesterday after a one-day lull; ground fighting picked up from Wednesday's low level. (Page 1)

The Soviets

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Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan, his Khmer Communist political rival, both attribute limited Chinese and North Vietnamese aid largely to Peking's and Hanoi's lack of enthusiasm for a Sihanouk-led government in Cambodia. (Page 3)

The South Vietnamese have completed a major operation in the Parrots Beak region of Cambodia west of Saigon. (Page 4)

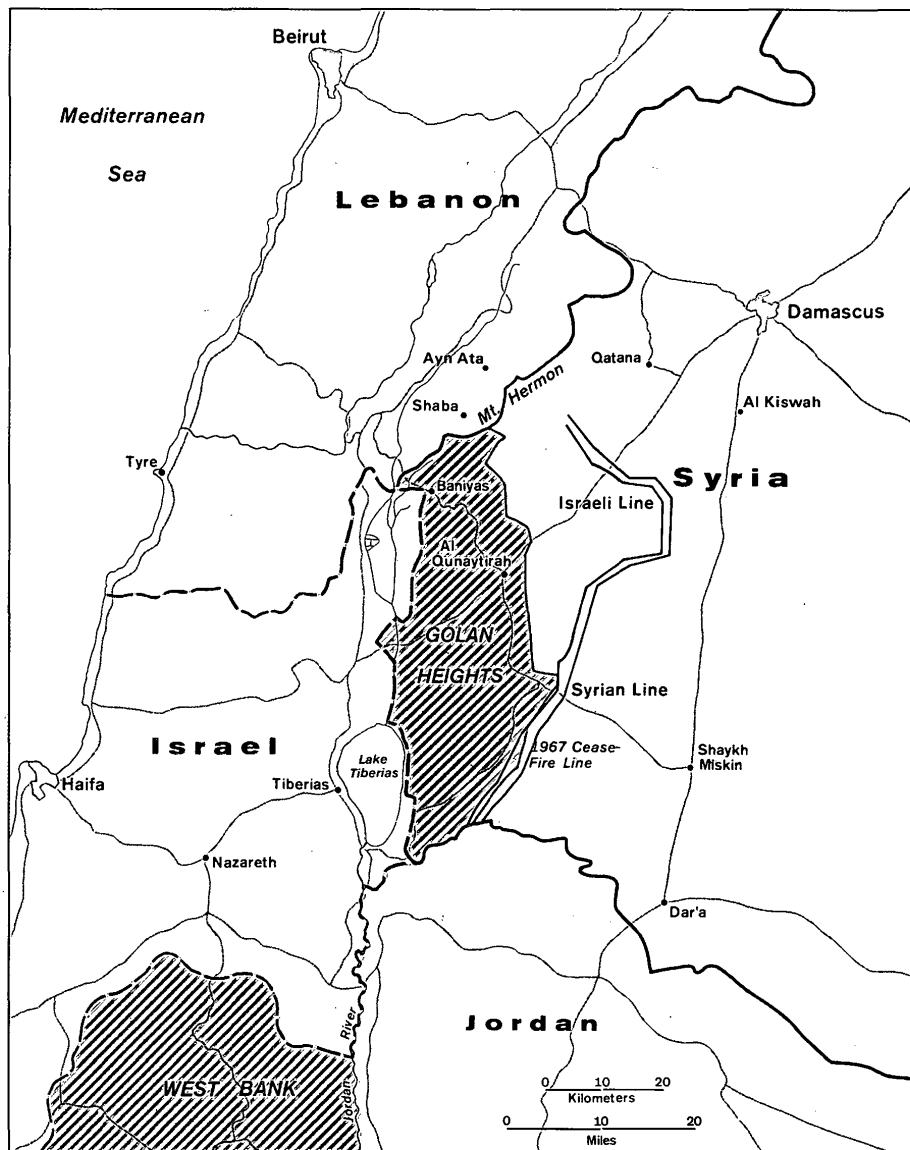
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The Soviets

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Notes on the USSR and Portugal appear on Page 5.

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

Israeli aircraft resumed combat missions over the Syrian front yesterday after a one-day lull. The Israelis flew a total of about 150 combat sorties and defensive patrols over the Golan Heights - southern Lebanon area.

They reportedly bombed "terrorist" concentrations near the Lebanese villages of Ayn Ata and Shaba.

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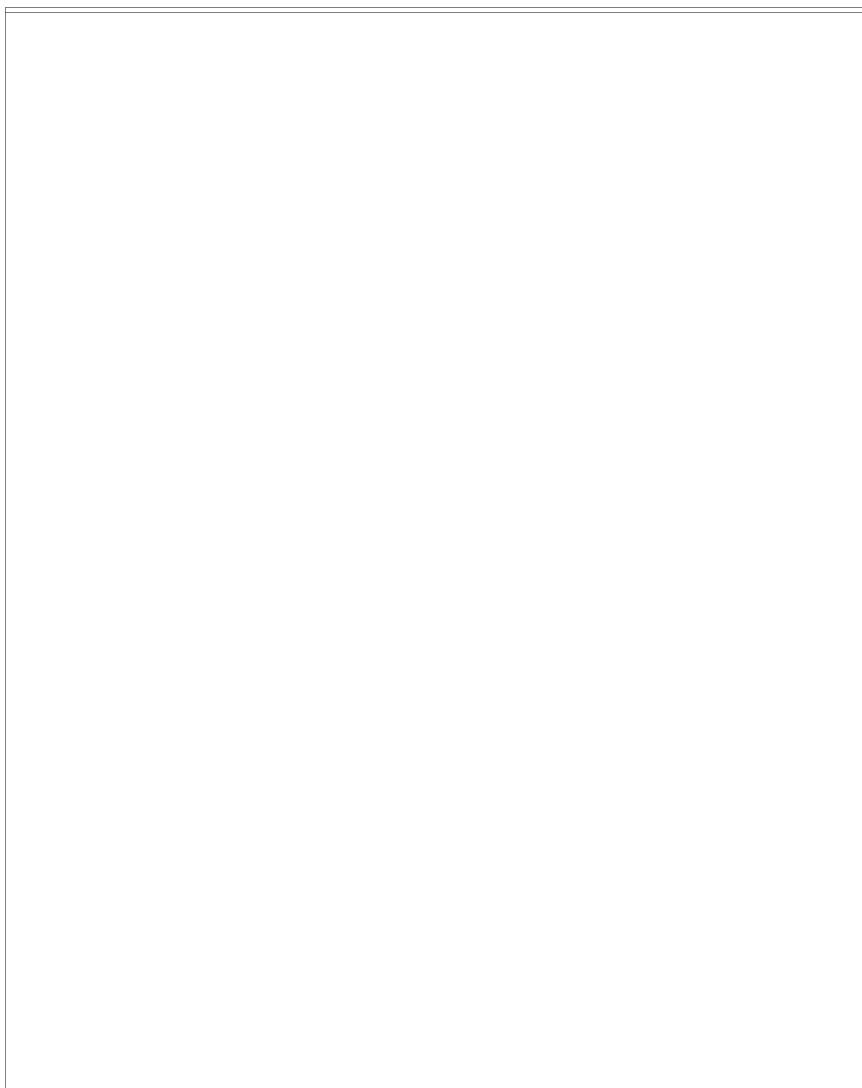
Ground combat also appeared to pick up from Wednesday's low level. Israel announced that its long-range artillery shelled Syrian military camps at Qatana and Al Kiswah--both well behind Syrian lines--in retaliation for Syrian fire which killed four Israeli soldiers and wounded two others.

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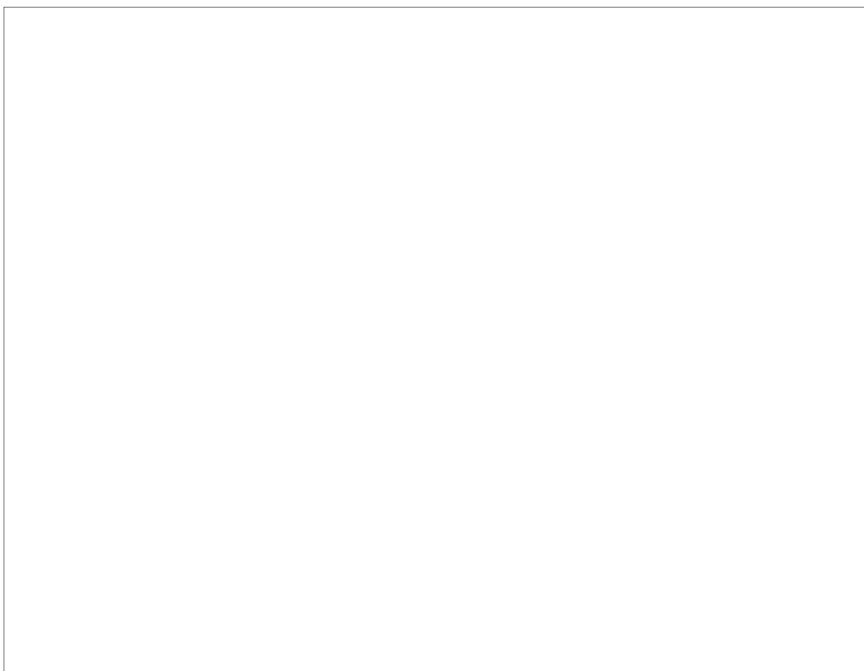
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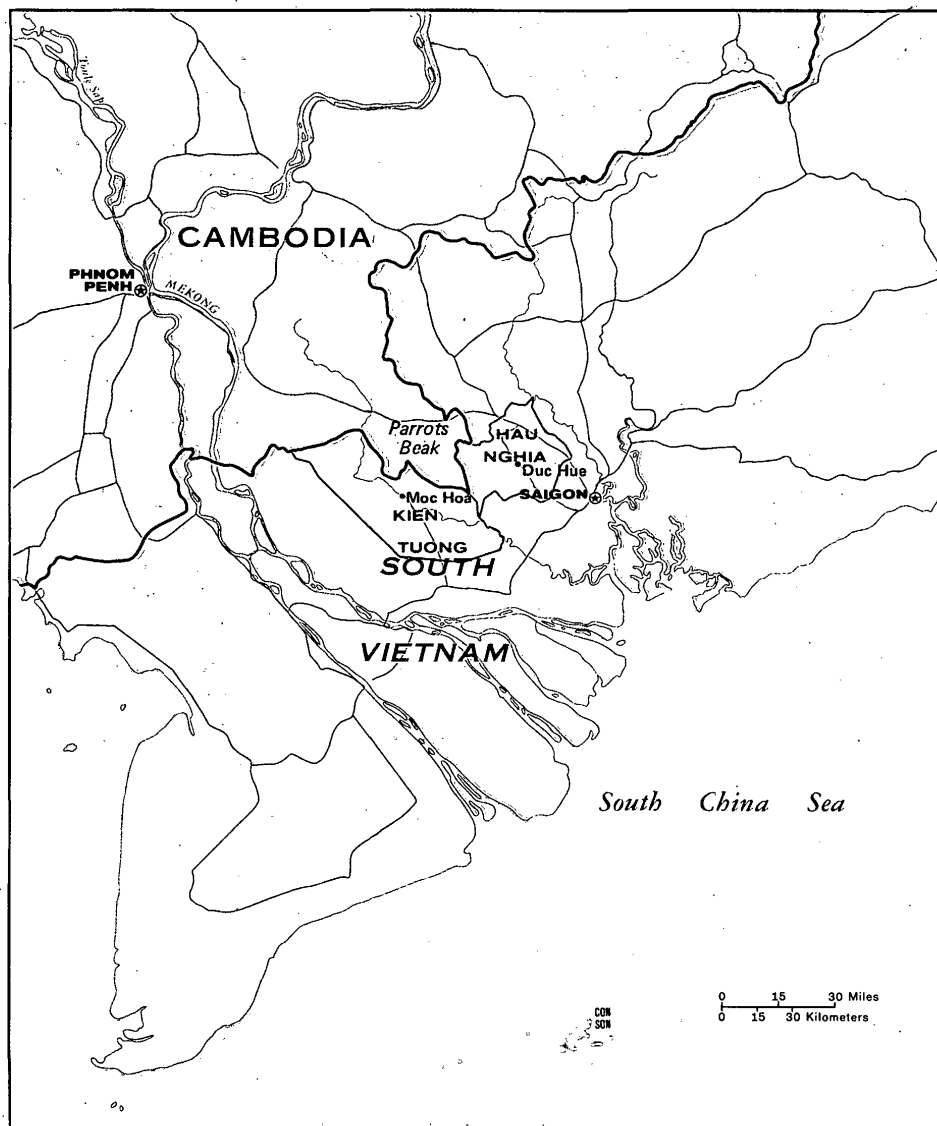
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CAMBODIA

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Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan, his chief Khmer Communist political rival, have both complained that Chinese and North Vietnamese support to the insurgents is inadequate. Both men evidently believe that this tight-fistedness is due in large part to Peking's and Hanoi's lack of enthusiasm for a Sihanouk-led government in Cambodia.





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SOUTH VIETNAM

The South Vietnamese have completed a major operation against the North Vietnamese 5th Division in the Parrots Beak region of Cambodia west of Saigon.

No major battles were reported, but official sources in Saigon are claiming heavy enemy losses. Sizable quantities of equipment and supplies were also reported captured. The South Vietnamese claim that the operation has significantly reduced the threat to western Hau Nghia Province and that the road to the once-beleaguered outposts at Duc Hue is now open.

The North Vietnamese 5th Division, which has normally operated north of Saigon, began moving toward the delta two months ago and had been concentrated in the Parrots Beak for several weeks. Most of the division managed to sidestep the cross-border operation. One regiment--the 174th--reached the South Vietnamese border, less than ten miles north of the Kien Tuong Province capital of Muc Hoa, on April 30.

Additional heavy fighting may occur if the Communists continue to move the 5th Division southward.

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Portugal: With the approval of the junta, Mario Soares, Portuguese Socialist Party leader, met Prime Minister Wilson and Foreign Secretary Callaghan in London yesterday. Soares plans talks today in Bonn with Chancellor Brandt and has requested an appointment with the US ambassador there. Soares, concerned about competition from the well-organized Portuguese Communist Party, is working to increase the strength and prestige of his own organization. He assumes that he will receive a portfolio in the provisional government which is to be formed within the next two weeks.

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